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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : H. Kitano et al.

Serial No. : 09/910,288

For : INFORMATION RETRIEVAL APPARATUS AND  
METHOD

Filed : July 20, 2001

Examiner : Steven Nguyen

Art Unit : 2665

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**MAR 22 2003**

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Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 16, 2004.

**Gordon Kessler, Reg. No. 38,511**

(Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative)

*Gordon Kessler*  
Signature

March 16, 2004

Date of Signature

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the outstanding Final Office Action dated January 28, 2004, please  
amend this application as follows.